GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:341
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
NATIONAL HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT
Kataria Shri Lal Chand

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the physical and financial ta.rgets set for the development of National Highways during the Eleventh Five Year Plan have been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the shortfall, if any, during the said plan period, year-wise and Statewise;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the constraints faced in achieving the said targets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to address the same and accelerate the pace of National Highway development in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) and (b): A full appraisal of achievements of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) is possible only on completion of the plan in March 2012. However, year-wise details of annual physical and financial targets set during the financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10 vis-a-vis the achievements are given in the annexure which is laid on the table of house along with replies to parts (c) and (d).

(c) and (d): The assessments regarding the achievements and shortfalls have been made for the entire programme and for all States.

The major reasons for the shortfall are delays in acquisition of land (LA), obtaining environment and forest clearances, shifting of utilities, poor performance by some contractors, delay in award of projects due to inadequate response from the bidders, inability of developers to raise necessary finance on account of economic slowdown, etc.

The Government has taken steps to expedite the progress of works by setting up of Special Land Acquisition Units (SLAUs), setting up of various Committees and offices such as High Level Coordination Committees headed by Chief Secretaries for accelerating pre-construction activities, Regional Offices headed by Chief General Managers for effective liaisoning with the State Governments, and formulation of revised strategy as per recommendations of B. K. Chaturvedi Committee to attract both domestic as well as international foreign investments by resolving procedural impediments, etc.